AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

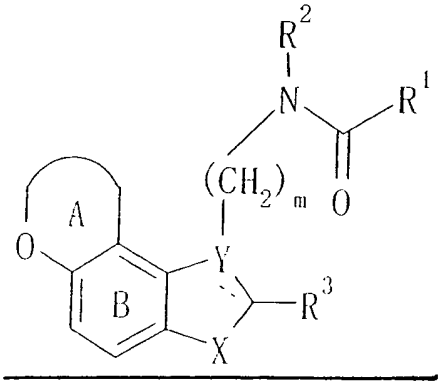
1-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A percutaneous absorption preparation ~~according to claim 17, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is~~ comprising (S)-N-[2-(1,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno [5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]acetamide, lauric diethanolamide, and optionally one or more members selected from fatty acid esters and polyhydric alcohols.

8-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A percutaneous absorption preparation ~~according to claim 17~~ comprising (S)-N-[2-(1,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno[5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]acetamide, isopropyl myristate, polyethylene glycol and lauric diethanolamide.

21. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A percutaneous absorption preparation ~~according to claim 17 which~~ comprising a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, lauric diethanolamide and optionally one or more members selected from fatty acid esters and polyhydric alcohols, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein, R^1 represents an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted amino group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group;

R^3 represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

X represents CHR^4, NR^4, O or S in which R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group;

Y represents C, CH or N, provided that when X is CH_2, Y is C or CH;

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····· represents a single bond or a double bond;

ring A represents an optionally substituted, 5- to 7-membered oxygen-containing heterocyclic ring;

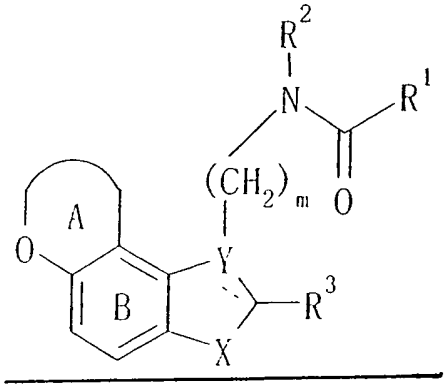
ring B represents an optionally substituted benzene ring; and

m represents an integer of 1 to 4;

or a salt thereof, wherein the percutaneous absorption preparation is a skin plaster or a skin patch which is applied and/or attached to the skin.

22-32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A percutaneous absorption preparation ~~according to claim 32, wherein the filler is silicon dioxide.~~ comprising a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, lauric diethanolamide and optionally one or more members selected from fatty acid esters and polyhydric alcohols, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein, R^1 represents an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted amino group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group;

R^3 represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

X represents CHR^4, NR^4, O or S in which R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group;

Y represents C, CH or N, provided that when X is CH_2, Y is C or CH;

⋯⋯ represents a single bond or a double bond;

ring A represents an optionally substituted, 5- to 7-membered oxygen-containing heterocyclic ring;

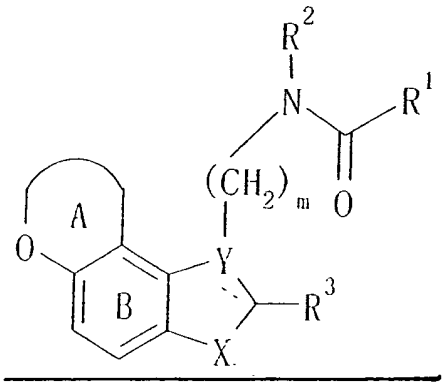
ring B represents an optionally substituted benzene ring; and

m represents an integer of 1 to 4;

or a salt thereof, wherein the percutaneous absorption preparation is contained in a skin contact member comprising silicon dioxide.

34-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently amended) A method of treating diseases related to melatonin, which comprises administrating ~~the percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 17~~ to a patient with a melatonin related disease[[.]] a percutaneous absorption preparation comprising a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, lauric diethanolamide and optionally one or more members selected from fatty acid esters and polyhydric alcohols, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein, R^1 represents an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted amino group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group;

R^3 represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

X represents CHR^4, NR^4, O or S in which R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group;

Y represents C, CH or N, provided that when X is CH_2, Y is C or CH;

⋯⋯ represents a single bond or a double bond;

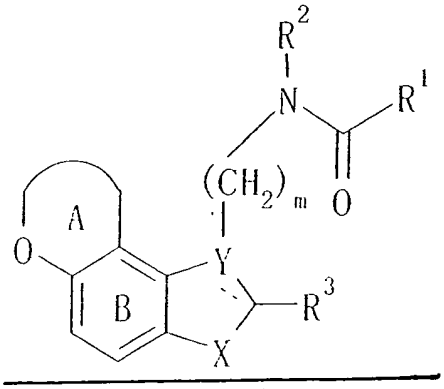
ring A represents an optionally substituted, 5- to 7-membered oxygen-containing heterocyclic ring;

ring B represents an optionally substituted benzene ring; and

m represents an integer of 1 to 4;

or a salt thereof.

40. (Currently amended) A method for percutaneous absorption of a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, which comprises administering ~~the percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 17~~ to a patient with a melatonin related disease[[.]] a percutaneous absorption preparation comprising a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, lauric diethanolamide and optionally one or more members selected from fatty acid esters and polyhydric alcohols, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein, R^1 represents an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted amino group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group;

R^3 represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

X represents CHR^4, NR^4, O or S in which R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group;

Y represents C, CH or N, provided that when X is CH_2, Y is C or CH;

represents a single bond or a double bond;

ring A represents an optionally substituted, 5- to 7-membered oxygen-containing heterocyclic ring;

ring B represents an optionally substituted benzene ring; and

m represents an integer of 1 to 4;

or a salt thereof.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein the percutaneous absorption preparation is affixed between about 6 hours before bedtime to just before bedtime.